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Cities and Towns to Receive More Than \$2 Million in Federal CDBG Funds

(HELENA) – Eight Montana communities are in the running to receive nearly \$2.8-million-dollars in federal grants, for public facility projects that will benefit low to moderate income families.

The Montana Department of Commerce uses the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) to help smaller communities tackle their greatest development needs. The grants are most often awarded to water and sewer projects and housing projects.

“CDBG grants help Montana’s smaller communities meet critical infrastructure needs,” said Governor Brian Schweitzer. “It’s a program that gives big money to the towns that need it most. They’re ready to move forward, but they can’t do it alone.”

Commerce selected this round of CDBG grants from applications for the 2007 public facilities grant competition. The Montana Department of Commerce administers the CDBG Program in coordination with the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). **Final confirmation of the grant awards is not expected until the new congressional delegation meets to finalize the 2007 HUD budget sometime in early 2007.**

“I know our Congressional delegation is aware of the long-term needs of our communities, and the critical role every CDBG dollar plays in meeting those needs,” said Commerce Director Anthony Preite. “CDBG funds help share the cost of these projects, so the cost doesn’t fall solely on ratepayers.”

The CDBG funds will be used in conjunction with more than \$12.1 million in additional funds from the communities and other state and federal programs. **Several of the 2007 CDBG recipients have also been selected to receive grants through the Montana Treasure State Endowment Program.**

The following communities will receive CDBG awards to help upgrade water or sewer systems:

- **Bainville - \$450,000** – The town is facing serious deficiencies with its wastewater system. At present, the community's wastewater treatment lagoon is leaking – about 85% of the wastewater entering the lagoon is lost through leakage. In addition, the lagoon dikes are in danger of failing and the town's wastewater collection pipes are leaking excessively.
- **Cascade County - \$450,000** – Residents of the Upper/Lower River Road Water and Sewer District, located immediately southwest of the City of Great Falls, are experiencing drinking water quality contamination and have faced several boil orders issued by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality over the years. On-site wastewater systems are degrading area groundwater quality and wells.
- **Ekalaka - \$450,000** – The town is experiencing major difficulties with its two wastewater lift stations, as well as significant deterioration of key sections of its wastewater collection and water distribution lines.
- **Harlem - \$450,000** - The city is facing serious deficiencies with its present water treatment facilities which pump and treat raw water from the Milk River.
- **Lewis and Clark County - \$254,097** – The proposed project will assist a lower income neighborhood, the Dunbar – Woodlawn Park Addition area, located adjacent to the City of Helena and the Lewis and Clark County Fairgrounds, that is currently on individual wells and septic systems. Drinking water wells in the area have shown high nitrate levels and fire protection is inadequate due to the lack of fire hydrants.
- **Pinesdale - \$450,000** – The town's current drinking water supply is inadequate to supply the growing community's residential and fire protection needs. During the 2000 fire season, fires burnt to the edge of town, destroyed four structures, and required evacuation of the town.
- **Gallatin County - \$121,320** – Residents in the Rae Water and Sewer District, located west of Bozeman, are experiencing a serious lack of water supply storage and lack of adequate fire protection.
- **Jordan - \$121,320** – The Town of Jordan is currently experiencing major deficiencies with its wastewater treatment lagoons. The existing lagoon system

cannot meet state effluent discharge limitations by April, 2009. Jordan's sewer system also has several deficiencies related to its wastewater lift station and wastewater collection system.

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